



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### MEXICO'S WATERFOWL KILL LESS THAN 5% OF U.S. TAKE, F.W.S. DIRECTOR SAYS

Mexico's annual waterfowl kill is probably less than five percent of the total yearly take in the United States, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, declared today.

Mr. Day returned last week from Mexico, after conferring with Mexican wildlife conservation officials and visiting many of the country's important waterfowl areas. He said the Mexican officials are striving to improve enforcement of laws issued under the U.S.-Mexican treaty of 1936, protecting migratory birds and game mammals.

The Service's Director found that the bulk of the birds taken in the Valley of Mexico are killed by Indians using antiquated, muzzle-loaded shotguns and spears. The birds are used primarily for food, like the ducks and geese taken on northern Canada's and Alaska's breeding grounds by Eskimos and Indians. Mr. Day said coots comprise a major portion of the Mexican waterfowl kill.

Waterfowl hunting is not a popular sport in Mexico, as it is in the United States, he said. But considerable hunting is done near the international border by U. S. citizens. Most of Mexico's best waterfowl wintering grounds are so inaccessible to hunters, he stated, that they constitute excellent natural refuges for the birds.

During his stay in Mexico, Mr. Day met with Eulogio de la Garza, technical director of forestry and game; Luis Macias, chief of the game department; and General Jose Pacheco, chief of forestry and game police.

The Fish and Wildlife Service Director was accompanied by Dr. Logan Bennett, chief of the Service's Branch of Wildlife Research, and David R. Gascoyne, assistant chief of the Branch of Game Management.

As a result of the conference between the U. S. and Mexican wildlife conservation officials, plans are being made for another meeting of the two countries and Canada, before the 1949 waterfowl hunting regulations are issued, to develop more uniform laws.

Plans are also being made for joint participation between the United States and Mexico in the Fish and Wildlife Service's forthcoming aerial and ground surveys of wintering waterfowl in the Latin American republic.

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